

September 16, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

Hispanic and other minority communities rely upon low-cost telecommunications services to accomplish many every day tasks, from looking for a job or affordable housing to staying in touch with family and friends. But pending before the FCC is a proposal that would introduce new charges and fees upon services upon which we depend, immediately harming millions of Hispanic and other consumers nationwide.

I understand that the FCC is considering applying "in-state" access charges and other fees on certain prepaid calling card services. Many Hispanics, particularly those on fixed incomes or those establishing the credit history, bank accounts and other means necessary to subscribe to local telephone service, rely upon these prepaid calling cards to stay connected at set affordable rates. Students, immigrants, senior citizens, and others face similar challenges.

As a result, prepaid calling cards are the **only** option available – without them, they could, quite literally, be out of choices for staying connected. Raising the price of prepaid services will directly harm those that can least afford price increases.

Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to disadvantaged consumers. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices and would certainly make these services substantially less affordable. Please look out for consumers and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,



ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

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RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to ask that the FCC not impose new hidden charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

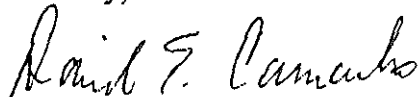
Minorities, lower-income families, senior citizens, immigrants, college students and military families rely upon calling card services for a variety of needs. Many of these consumers do not have the credit history, bank accounts, or the means to pay a large deposit for local telephone service. For these consumers, a prepaid card may be the only option they have to stay connected – to make phone calls to look for a job, for affordable housing, make a doctor's appointment, or stay in touch with family and friends.

These cards offer convenience and predictable cost, as there are no hidden fees or charges. In economically disadvantaged areas, consumers literally risk being disconnected if the prices of these cards increase. Prepaid calling cards are indispensable for these and other consumer groups because they are an affordable alternative to regular and wireless telephone services.

But such price hikes are precisely what the FCC will do if it inflicts new "in-state" access charges and other fees on pre-paid cards. The fees would funnel directly to large local telephone companies while the burden would fall squarely upon those consumers that can least afford to bear it.

Adding access charges to be paid to local telephone companies will substantially increase the per minute charges on pre-paid calls, jeopardizing the benefits Hispanic and other communities gain from these services. Please stop any effort to raise rates on American consumers and decide that these services are not subject to the exorbitant new access charges and other fees.

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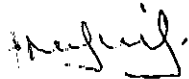
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Sincerely,



ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein



Kaitlin McGrath
12 Hancock Street, Apartment #2
Boston, MA 02114

July 22, 2004

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445, 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: FCC-WC Docket 03-133 (AT&T Corp Petition for Declaratory Ruling
Regarding Enhanced Pre-Paid Calling Card Services.)

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am a recent college graduate living in Boston. I am writing due to my concern that you might consider making it more expensive to use pre-paid calling cards. As a young woman who has just entered the working world, calling cards has always been one way to help me save on my phone expenses. For the millions of Americans, particularly low-income and elderly, who depend on the service of pre-paid calling cards, this proposed cost raise will burden us tremendously. AT&T has asked for a declaratory ruling that enhanced pre-paid calling services are interstate communications subject to interstate, rather than intrastate, access charges.

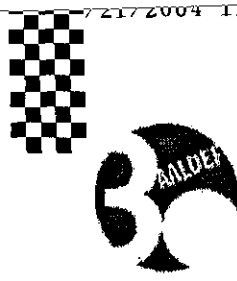
Unless the status quo is maintained and FCC rules remain the same, the costs of pre-paid calling card services for people like me will sky rocket. I have read that costs could increase up to 20 times what they are today if Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOCs) like Verizon are successful in getting the rules changed so that they can charge "in-state" connection fees on calls made with "enhanced service" calling cards. If the FCC allows this change, it will drive up costs for consumers. The FCC should not hike consumer costs on prepaid calling cards.

Consumers are faced with increasing costs in so many facets of their lives, from health care costs to rising prices for milk, gas and other products. Please do not let the FCC change the rules to force us to pay higher prices for using pre-paid calling cards too. It is not necessary or fair. Thank you for your consideration of my request. Again, please support AT&T's position on their request for a declaratory ruling that enhanced calling card services, as they are described in their petition, are interstate communications subject to interstate, rather than intrastate, access charges.

Very truly yours,

Kaitlin E. McGrath
Kaitlin E. McGrath

Cc: Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner
Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Kevin J. Martin, Commissioner
Jonathon S. Adelstein, Commissioner



AALDEF@30:

Standing for Justice

July 15, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), I urge the FCC not to place new and higher access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services. New charges would increase the price of services for thousands of low-income and fixed-income individuals, who rely on prepaid calling cards to stay connected.

AALDEF is a 30-year old, New York-based organization that protects and promotes the civil rights of Asian Americans through litigation, advocacy and community education. We represent Asian immigrant workers, tenants and other low-income people who are often not fully proficient in English.

For low- and fixed-income individuals, prepaid calling card services are an important means of staying in touch with friends and family across the country. In fact, prepaid cards may be the only means for disadvantaged consumers to make telephone calls within a tight budget.

The FCC should not change its policy by imposing new "in-state" access charges and fees on calling cards. Such a policy would be highly detrimental to low-income Asian American consumers.

I urge the FCC to make sure that prepaid calling cards remain free of these extra charges and fees.

Sincerely,

Margaret Fung
Executive Director

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

AALDEF ASIAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND
99 Hudson Street, 12th Floor New York, New York 10013
Tel. 212.966.5932 Fax. 212.966.4303 2004gala@aaldef.org



USO WORLD HEADQUARTERS
2111 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 1200
Arlington, VA 22201

Phone (703) 908-8400
Fax (703) 908-8401
www.uso.org

July 16, 2004

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Support for AT&T pre-paid calling card filing (Docket 03-133)

Dear Chairman Powell:

The USO (United Services Organization) is chartered by the Congress as a non-profit charitable corporation. It is endorsed by the President of the United States and the Department of Defense.

The USO's mission is to provide morale, welfare and recreation service to uniformed military Personnel. That's why the USO established "Operation Phone Home", our extremely successful project to provide free pre-paid calling cards to service members, 95% of who use pre-paid calling cards.

These pre-paid calling cards are a lifeline for many troops serving far away from their friends and families. That's why the USO, just as we did in August of 2003, strongly urges the FCC's support of AT&T's filing for declaratory judgment on enhanced calling card services.

If the FCC subjects these prepaid card calls to intrastate access charges and USE, the price consumers pay for these calls would increase by nearly 20%. New access charges would disrupt the success of "Operation Phone Home". It would directly interfere with the ability of military men and women to phone home from far away, because as costs rise to providers, they will quickly be passed along to consumers - including men and women in uniform.

The FCC has an obligation to stop this from happening. Please support AT&T's petition on Docket 03-133.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed Powell", is written over a horizontal line.

Edward A. Powell
President and Chief Executive Officer



Retail's Future...Educate, Innovate, Advocate

July 21, 2004

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

1700 N. Moore Street, Suite 2250, Arlington, VA 22209
Phone: 703-841-2300 Fax: 703-841-1184
email: info@retail-leaders.org www.retail-leaders.org

Re: **AT&T Corp. Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Enhanced Prepaid Card Services, WC Docket No. 03-133**

Dear Chairman Powell:

I write on behalf of the Retail Industry Leaders Association ("RILA"), the world's leading alliance of the fastest growing and most innovative retailers and their product and service suppliers. RILA members represent more than \$1 trillion in sales annually and operate more than 100,000 stores, manufacturing facilities, and distribution centers nationwide. Its member retailers and suppliers have facilities in all 50 states, as well as internationally, and employ millions of Americans.

It has come to our attention that the FCC may soon issue a ruling that will adversely affect the prepaid card industry and the millions of consumers who use these cards. Prepaid cards are sold at stores ranging from the smallest neighborhood convenience store to the largest retail chains, and in most cases, are considered a staple product for these retailers. Given the high volume of prepaid cards that are sold in these stores, we expect retailers will be harmed financially if the FCC applies any additional fees or costs to these prepaid card services. Any increase in the cost of providing these services will also be passed on to the consumers who purchase these cards.

Market research shows the primary users of prepaid cards are low-income, elderly, and minority individuals and members of our armed forces. Regulators should be slow to shift costs to these consumers, who are least able to bear increased costs.

RILA urges the FCC to refrain from any action that will increase the cost of providing prepaid card service. Instead, the Commission should maintain the current environment in which the industry can continue to flourish and ensure the continued availability through America's retailers of reasonably priced pre-paid calling card options to America's consumers.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Kennedy
President



THE AMERICAN LEGION
5th District, Department of Illinois
C/O
Robert E. Coulter Jr. Post No. 1941
900 South LaGrange
LaGrange, Illinois 60525-2936
(708) 354-3300

July 21, 2004

Dear Members of the FCC:

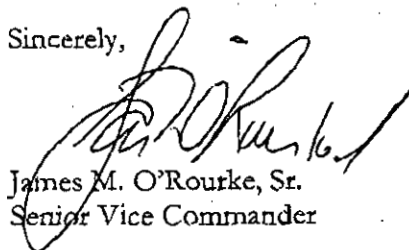
Re Opposition to Proposed Rate Change for Phone Cards

As you know, our service men and women routinely use the prepaid calling cards to stay connected with family, friends and loved ones while stationed across the country or abroad. I am notifying you that I object to the Federal Communications Commission consideration of a ruling that would significantly increase the costs that apply to enhanced prepaid calling cards, resulting in sharp price increases for the tens of millions of consumers who use them - a large portion of which are military personnel.

Research shows that 95% of military personnel use prepaid cards. Today, these cards provide extremely low calling rates to consumers. If you subject these calls to new access charges, the price that consumers pay for these calls would increase by nearly 20%. This increase will adversely affect the cost for military personnel using these cards, and will impact pricing for Operation Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the FCC to reject any new rate increases to enhanced prepaid calling cards.

Sincerely,



James M. O'Rourke, Sr.
Senior Vice Commander



Founded 1976

ASIAN

BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

2004 Board of Directors & Officers**President**

Joseph Jou
Jou Insurance Services

Vice President

Gordon K. Eng
Law Offices of Gordon K. Eng

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Neil A. Santo Tomas
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Los Angeles Times

Los Angeles World Airports

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Metropolitan Water District

MTA

The Music Center

Northrop Grumman

Raytheon Company

Sempra Energy

Southern California Edison Co.

Southwest Airlines

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

Turner Construction Co.

Union Bank of California

U.S. Small Business Administration

Verizon

The Walt Disney Company

WellPoint Health Networks

Wells Fargo Bank

July 21, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the Asian Business Association of Los Angeles, Inc. (ABA), I am writing because our members are deeply concerned about a potential change in FCC policy that would impose new, hidden access charges and fees on pre-paid calling cards.

The ABA represents Asian business owners to promote and improve the climate for small businesses and to educate our members about proposed government policies that would impact them.

Pre-paid calling card services are an important means for Asian-Americans, particularly those on low and fixed incomes, to stay in touch. Most Asian-Americans are born overseas, arriving here without bank accounts or credit histories to get phone service in their homes. Pre-paid calling cards allow consumers to stay in touch and connected in an affordable manner. As a result, the Asian-American community is among the fastest-growing markets for these pre-paid cards, as 10% of Asian-American households have used these cards.

In addition, small businesses market nationwide and sell pre-paid cards in humble storefront and convenience stores and sophisticated on-line marketing operations. Imposing additional fees on pre-paid cards will raise the price and decrease the opportunity for small businesses to sell these cards.

Moreover, I understand that the in-state access charges that the FCC may impose would be remitted to the local telephone company, even if that local telephone company does not provide the long-distance service sold on the particular calling card. This corporate subsidy arrangement strikes me as unfair. In short, imposing these fees would amount to taking money directly from consumers and small businesses and placing it in the pockets of these large local telephone companies.

I urge the FCC not to impose higher access charges and fees on pre-paid calling cards. If you do, many of the nation's most price-sensitive telephone consumers and small businesses will immediately feel the burden.



Sincerely,

Joseph Jou
President

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer

*Michelle Hoomis
4 Parkview Terrace
Duxbury, MA 02332*

July 19, 2004

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445, 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: FCC - WC Docket 03-133 (AT&T Corp Petition for Declaratory Ruling
Regarding Enhanced Pre-Paid Calling Card Services.)

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am a single mother. I have three teenage children. We are disappointed to hear that you might consider making it more expensive to use pre-paid calling cards. AT&T has asked for a declaratory ruling that enhanced pre-paid calling card services are interstate communications subject to interstate, rather than intrastate, access charges.

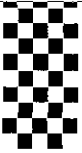
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It is difficult enough to make ends meet when one is on a fixed income and trying to manage three busy teenagers. The prices of everything are going up. Please do not force people like me to pay higher prices for using pre-paid calling cards too. It is not necessary or fair. Thank you for your consideration of my request. Again, please support AT&T's position on their request for a declaratory ruling that enhanced calling card services, as they are described in their petition, are interstate communications subject to interstate, rather than intrastate, access charges.

Very truly yours,

Michelle Hoomis

Cc: Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner
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I understand that the FCC is considering applying "in-state" access charges and other fees on certain prepaid calling card services. Many Hispanics, particularly those on fixed incomes or those establishing the credit history, bank accounts and other means necessary to subscribe to local telephone service, rely upon these prepaid calling cards to stay connected at set affordable rates. Students, immigrants, senior citizens, and others face similar challenges.

As a result, prepaid calling cards are the **only** option available – without them, they could, quite literally, be out of choices for staying connected. Raising the price of prepaid services will directly harm those that can least afford price increases.

Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to disadvantaged consumers. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices and would certainly make these services substantially less affordable. Please look out for consumers and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

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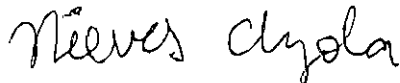
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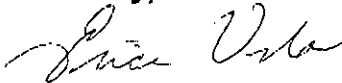
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Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to disadvantaged consumers. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices and would certainly make these services substantially less affordable. Please look out for consumers and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,



ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

September 16, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

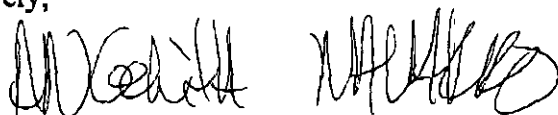
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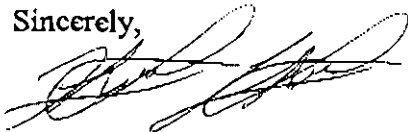
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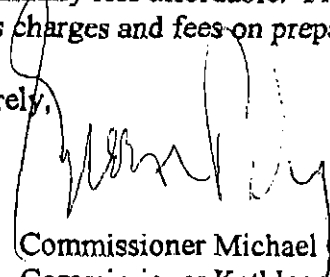
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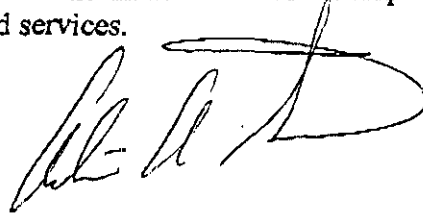
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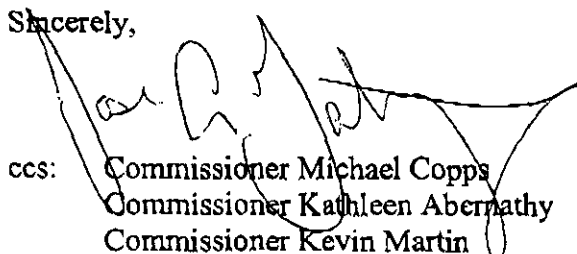
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